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The Farmers' National Bank

Appomattox, Virginia.

VOODOOISM OF MANY CULTS GRIPS CUBA

Find Right Cat Bone and You Are Invisible.

Havana, Cuba.—Mystic voodoo rites practiced in many parts of the United States have been linked by recent investigation with the cult of Nanigoism in Cuba.

Comparative analysis of African sacrificial customs have furnished unusual evidence that both had a common origin in the Congo Jungles and that voodoism reached the American continent by the importation of slaves from Cuba and Haiti.

"Obeah," a mild form of voodooism, is practiced in Cuba and the British West Indies with virtually identic ceremonies. Negroes who came to labor in Cuban sugar cane fields have brought to this Spanish-speaking island not only the Obeah but also the far more terrible and sanguinary rite of Nanigo. The high priests and priestesses of these cults have shown great powers of resistance to the suppressive measures of the police.

Cuba has dealt severely with voodooism, and it is believed that its more ghastly forms have been eliminated. It was largely in connection with the government's campaign against Obeahism and Nanigoism that measures were adopted curtailing the immigration of illiterate workers from Haiti and Jamaica.

Takes Criminal Aspect.

Cuba has been particularly concerned because voodooism here takes on a criminal aspect entirely exclusive of the possibility of human sacrifice. In Oriente province, which lies nearest Haiti, the voodoo priests of that island wield large powers. In other parts of the island Nanigoism is dominant among the negroes who take their religion in this form.

Nanigoism is a combination of devil worship and gang spirit. Its priests promise occult powers to law breakers, and members of this cult are pledged to render all possible protection and assistance to each other.

As far as can be learned the symbolism of the cults is very similar. All include the sacrifice of roosters, black cats, goats and other animals. Cuban police records show cases where the perpetrators of murder in connection with voodooism have been brought to justice, but it is claimed that this type of sacrifice has been eradicated.

Havana newspapers continue to chronicle cases of Nanigo outrages committed against those who have incurred the enmity of the gangsters. It has been found that there is always some one willing to carry out the priests' orders, because a Nanigo neophyte fails of membership unless he has one capital crime to his credit.

At Nanigo funerals a black rooster is slaughtered in the home of the deceased. The fowl is then presented to some neighboring non-Nanigo family as a warning.

Cat Bone Is Charm.

One of the strangest superstitions in the Haitian cult is that a certain bone in a black cat's body will confer invisibility to its possessor. The rite takes place in the presence of three witnesses, and the cat is thrust into hot water. It is related by voodooists that supernatural manifestations, such as thunder and lightning, are an accompaniment of this process.

In the early years of the Nineteenth century Jean La Fitte, famous pirate of the Spanish Main, frequently brought slaves to Cuba and the United States. His principal market in the United States was New Orleans and this fact is now being used to explain the particularly close similarity between the voodooism of Cuba and that of the lower Mississippi valley.

There is a tradition that La Fitte's entourage included several African "conjur doctors."

The successors of these doctors today have considerable knowledge of herbs and the curative properties of plant juices. In general they are employed to effect cures, but with other herbs the doctor-priests are said to be able to cause temporary or permanent loss of memory to their enemies. This belief appears substantiated by the recent discovery by United States marines in Haiti of a colony of negroes, dazed or hypnotized, working under their task masters on a plantation.

Priests frequently claim the power to take on animal or reptile form. This recalls the African "leopard" society where a certain clan were credited with power to turn themselves into leopards and prowl the jungle at night.

Manila Declares War on 12,000,000 Rats

Manila, P. I.—Bubonic plague has broken out in parts of India and China and the Philippine health authorities have started a campaign against rats, the principal carriers of the disease.

It is estimated that there is one rat for every person in the islands, approximately 12,000,000. The chief of the health service issued a warning that until this number is reduced the outlook would be dangerous.

Sanitary inspectors are acting as piped pipers in the ports of Cebu, Iloilo, Zamboanga, Legaspi and Davao.

TINY INSECTS SAVE COCONUT GROVES

Fly Is Ally to Man in War on Caterpillars.

Boulder, Colo.—Down in the South seas a battle in the endless war between man and insects has been fought and won without any report of it coming to northern ears. Prof. T. A. D. Cockerell of the University of Colorado tells how a tiny fly cooperated with man to save the coconut trees from the caterpillar.

To us, for whom coconut means merely a confection, or, if we be a little more chemical minded, oil for soaps and butter substitutes, it is hard to bring home the importance of coconuts for the brown people of the Pacific. To them the coconut tree means both food and shelter, frequently ropes and clothing, and in addition, nowadays, white men's trade goods. The coconut has been called the most useful tree in the world, at least certainly it is the most useful tree in the tropics.

So when the innumerable sluglike caterpillars of the moth called levuana began to eat all the leaves of the coconut tree in Fiji, and threatened to spread over the whole South Pacific area, there was consternation. The insect had a host of natural enemies, but they did not seem too be able to make any impression on its swarming numbers.

Then one day the tiny flies of the family tachinidea, a species known as pyrchomia rennets, was brought over from the Federation Malay states and turned loose. The tachinids have a pleasant habit of laying their eggs in the eggs of other insects, and the hungry little grubs that hatch out of them live in the world of natural oneiet where they first come to larva-hood until they are ready to fly. The natural result is one more tachinid, one fewer caterpillar. Another member of this same family is being tried out most hopefully now in the American corn belt, against the borer.

Pyrchomyia made short work of the coconut caterpillar. Within a few months the stripped trees were putting forth new green leaves, young plantations are no longer pestered, and the most prominent industry of the South seas was safe again.

Swiss Seek to Save Home of First Book

Geneva.—A committee of scholars has been formed here to obtain funds for the purchase and preservation of the Chateau zu Truchssesen von Wolhussen, at Munster, Canton of Lucerne, Switzerland, where the first book in the country was printed in 1470.

Aside from this identity, the structure is otherwise of historical interest. Built in the days of Barbarossa and of Heinrich the Lion of Bavaria. It was once of great architectural beauty. Subsequently, it was embellished by the famous Swiss million aire-scholar, Canon Helyas Helye of Laufson, who acquired it three centuries later and set up there the first printing press in the country, the products of which are still sought after by collectors.

Two years after the death of Gutenberg, at Mentz, in 1468, and six years before Caxton brought the art of printing into England, Helyas Helye achieved the great ambition of his life, and built the first Swiss press, molded the first types in lead, and ran off the first book in the country from a wood press, which continued to be in use for 200 years.

Former Mexican General Now Salesman in U. S.

Del Rio, Texas.—Rafael Cip Pi Castillo, a former general in the army of Pancho Villa, now is engaged in peddling electric equipment here in spite of the fact that he is said to own one of the finest houses in Mexico City.

He is also a nephew of the late President Diaz. Since his flight from Mexico Castillo has been working at menial tasks. Once he was employed with a crew of laborers on a dam and another time at an ice house.

Succeeds Wife

Cleveland, Ohio.—As national and Ohio secretary of the Daughters of America, Max C. Roth, Youngstown, Ohio, succeeds his wife, who filled the two offices continuously for 33 years. He was elected to serve four years, the unexpired term of his wife, who died December 8.

Boy, the Time Table!

New York.—Cecil Beaton has failed to see a ripping, ripsliing Venus in this country, whereas they abound in London.

Sterling Holds Record for Migratory Speed

Berlin, Germany.—Professor Tiehenmants of Rossitten, East Prussia, gives the following as the established speeds of certain birds during migration: The sparrow develops a speed of 25 miles an hour; the grey gull, the black-back gull and the Norway crow have the same speed, 31 miles an hour; the rook and the finches reach 32 miles an hour. The speediest flyer is the starling with approximately 42 miles an hour.

RUMANIA GIVES GYPSIES FREEDOM

300,000 Nomads Will Be Assimilated by Nation.

Jassy, Rumania.—Three hundred thousand Rumanian gypsies will be assimilated by Rumania and become an integral part of the Rumanian race.

This is one of the great social reforms inaugurated by Dr. Julius Manin, Rumania's new progressive premier. Unlike the gypsies of Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Yugo-Slavia who have been granted citizenship in these countries, the gypsies of Rumania are still regarded virtually as slaves.

Up to 1845 gypsy slave markets existed in Rumania. The price of a family of gypsies sold as slaves was about $50. When the United States was struggling with the slave problem during the Civil war Rumania decided to abolish gypsy slavery altogether, so that today gypsies are free to live their own unfettered, nomadic and primitive lives, where and how they will.

Rumania's large gypsy population is scattered all over the country. Large settlements of them are to be found in Moldavia, Walachia and Transylvania. Like their brother gypsies in the United States, they ply their trade as tinkers, blacksmiths, musicians, dancers, soothsayers and horse dealers. Those who cannot find regular employment live by theft and mendicancy.

Unlike the gypsies of Czechoslovakia or Hungary, who seem to be a superior caste, the Rumanian gypsies live in great shame and misery.

Although they allow themselves to be baptized by the Christian faith, they really pursue no religion. Their old women practice fortune-telling and are famous for their magic and sleight of hand.

New Fire Engine Falls Apart on False Run

Livingston, N. J.—Livingston volunteer firemen are prepared to answer calls with a borrowed fire engine, their own having collapsed when responding to a false alarm. The machine is only a few months old.

The firemen were going at more than fifty miles an hour when at Grasses corner the bottom of the motor fell out, leaving a trail of gears, clutch and various other parts along the roadway. None of the firemen was hurt. Chief Hockenjos said the factory had taken back the machine and loaned them one in its place.

Advance Notice!

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Lynchburg, Virginia

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A. H. CLEMENT, Editor.

THURSDAY, FEB. 7, 1929

Vera Road

Commissioner Shirley and his commission has come across handsomely in the matter of providing funds for Appomattox road construction and allocated $50,000 to be spent on the road from Appomattox to Vera. It is well done gentlemen and the public fund expended on this important thoroughfare is proper and just.

Now, when the time comes for more mileage there is a crying need for the completion of the Bent Creek road to Appomattox. The county has completed its work of grading this road and it is ready for the finishing touch of State authorities.

Hoovercrats

The Conference of Democrats who bolted the national Democratic ticket was held in Lynchburg at the Virginian Hotel Tuesday and was well attended by prominent independent Democrats and no doubt would have been a rousing meeting if the doors had been thrown open to the public.

For some time there has been a great deal of speculation as to what this conference would do. The old line Democrats are uneasy—fear of some coalition with the Republican party and at the general election next November repeat the bitter dose of defeat of the Democratic nominees.

The Conference heard a lengthy review of the causes of the defeat of the Democratic party in the South by Bishop Cannon by letter. In this letter he repudiates Smith - Rascob - Roosevelt leadership and also calls for retraction of the hard things said about the Anti-Smith Democrats during the Campaign.

The conference adopted the following resolutions calling a convention later on:

The text of the resolutions calling the anti-Smith convention follows:

"Resolved (1) — That a convention of anti-Smith Democrats be called to nominate, if it deems proper, a ticket for election in November, 1929, and to determine such other matters as may come before the convention.

"(2)—That a committee of one from each Congressional district be appointed by selection of the delegates here to have in charge the calling of said convention, and the determination of the time and place of the convention, and the basis of representation therein.

"(3)—That we warn our people against committing themselves by participation in any primary, mass meeting or conventions of the old political parties.

After an all-day session, just before adjournment a district chairman was elected for each congressional district, and A. R. Harwood was made chairman of the tenth.

It appears from the official vote of this county that Gov. Smith received 885 votes and President Hoover received 446. Appomattox's entire voting strength is approximately 2,000 and it will be seen that more than 600 failed to vote last November. The normal Republican vote is 100 and the Democratic vote is 975.

The ruling of Attorney-General Saunders saying that those who bolted the national ticket can vote in the primary will not entice these independents into the primary to be questioned and subjected to midnight party rules governing the primary.

Let the party leaders of the Democratic party confer—have a convention—nominate a candidate—publish a platform—adopt sane and fair rules for conducting the primaries hereafter, and we believe these conscientious bolters will return to the fold.

Our opinion is that the present primary law must be amended before any bolter can conscientiously vote in the primary.

Memorial Methodist Church

During the week of Feb. 18th prominent speakers will deliver addresses at Memorial Methodist Church, one speaker every night from Monday the 18th through Friday the 22nd. The general subject to be discussed is Evangelism. These addresses are being given in connection with the Missionary Institute held at that time. Special music will be rendered nightly. The public is requested to bear these dates in mind and to be present at this unusual opportunity to hear some outstanding pulpiteers. The names and their subjects will be announced next week.

On next Sunday evening the pastor of Memorial Methodist Rev. G. E. Reamey, will continue his series of Sunday night sermons. His subject for this occasion is "Two Fools". At the morning service the pastor will take as his subject "Christ or Chaos." Sunday afternoon service at Wesley Chapel at 3 p. m. Sunday School at Memorial Church at 9:45: at Wesley Chapel at 2:00 p. m.

Liberty Church Services

9:30 A. M. Sunday School. Classes for all ages.

11:00 Morning Worship. Subject: "The Romance and Realism of Mountain Schools". Sermon by Dr. J. W. O'Hara, of Asheville, N. C.

7:00 P. M. The B.Y.P.U. will meet.

8:00 P. M. Subject: "A Woman's Great Discovery" Sermon by the pastor.

This is "The Church of the Cordial Hand."

Everybody Welcome.

Dr. J. W. O'Hara, Superintendent of Mountain Mission Schools will speak at Liberty Baptist Church Sunday morning at 11 o'clock. He has a great message and all are cordially invited to hear him.

America Sets Record in Road Construction

New York.—No nation has ever gone into road construction at such an amazing pace as has the United States during the last ten years.

Roy D. Chapin, chairman of the highway committee, National Automobile Chamber of Commerce, says that in less than ten years the public has voted virtually $10,000,000,000 to the construction and maintenance of highways, enough to defray our cost in the World war, excluding foreign loans.

No public roads improvement in any era has remotely approximated the expenditure of these projects, and it is notable that the feat of raising the money has been accomplished with comparative ease.

During the last year four states, Louisiana, Iowa, West Virginia and Missouri, have voted a total of $240,000,000 in highway bond issues to facilitate completion of their main state systems.

New York has more high-type highways than any other state, with 11,000 miles of hard-surfaced roads. Illinois leads in cement pavements, with 6,000 miles, while Indiana has the largest mileage of all types of hard-surfaced roads.

Two states have already completed general improvement of all of their roads. These states are Maryland and Delaware.

The Department of Commerce estimates that there are 6,500,000 miles of roads in the United States, of which more than half are in the United States. When only the improved roads are considered, the United States has much more than half.

French Citizen Claims He Invented War Tanks

Lille, France.—A man who says he is the real inventor of the tanks used during the World war has brought suit against the state for 500,000 damages for having communicated the plans of his invention to England.

M. Parisot de Rupt, who states to have invented the war tanks, was managing editor of the "Political and Literary Annals" during the war. He has already protested to the ministry of war and the premier's office, but having received no answer has now taken his grievance to court.

BIG AIRSHIP WILL BE READY IN MARCH

Britain's Latest Craft to Fly Atlantic.

London.—Trial flights of the R-100, the gigantic airship now being constructed under the auspices of the British air ministry for the purpose of flying the Atlantic, will not be made until March, 1929, according to information given at the headquarters of Commander C. D. Burney, who will lead the expedition.

Although Commander Burney has been pushing his plans with all possible speed, there have been several delays as the result of manufacturers requiring extra time to supply parts for the mammoth air liner. It is pointed out, however, that the prediction of trial flights by March is a conservative one and that it is possible the intervening period will be cut down.

Meanwhile considerable speculation reigns as to who will comprise the passenger list of the ship on its great flight from England to Canada and thence to New York. While the British air ministry nominally is in charge of the flight, it is known that Commander Burney will be permitted to select practically the entire crew, as well as determine who will be carried as passengers in addition to the air ministry's representatives.

Requests for permission to accompany the commander on his flight have been pouring in from all parts of Europe as well as America, but it is declared that no final selections have as yet been made.

Gains in Weight After Escaping Wife's Knife

Kansas City, Mo.—Following disclosures that he had gained 40 pounds in weight since he had stopped running from a butcher knife wielded by his wife, as well as since having left her board, Harry Mitchell, a negro, was granted a divorce in the independence division of the Circuit court by Judge Willard P. Hall.

Mitchell and his wife lived at 1610 Brooklyn avenue. Mrs. Mitchell threatened him with a knife, Mitchell said.

"But were you always good to her?" inquired Judge Hall.

"Yes, sir," Mitchell replied. "I always was on time for meals and always kept the house warm in winter. But I lost weight eating her food."

Mitchell said his wife's weight was 185 pounds and his 145, while they lived together.

Big Parade of Steamboats Is Planned on Ohio River

Pittsburgh.—A steamboat parade on the Ohio river, headed by President-Elect Herbert Hoover, is planned for September, 1929, to celebrate completion of all locks and dams on the stream.

Capt. Oscar Barrett, president of the Ohio Valley Improvement association, says he already has invited Mr. Hoover and that he has received his tentative acceptance.

Towns and cities along the river will be asked to co-operate, while steamship owners and operators are expected to participate.

Three Million Artisans Are Listed in Russia

Geneva, Switzerland.—Official statistics from Russia, quoted in the weekly publication of the International labor office, put the number of artisans in the Soviet union at 2,000,000, or 25 per cent of the total number of industrial workers.

Their production, including milling is valued at $2,750,000,000, or 30 per cent of the total value of the industrial production of the Soviet union. There are 7,413 artisans' co-operatives, with a total membership of 463,018 members.

Hero at Last Cited

Fresno, Calif.—Fifty-two years after her husband rescued Gen. George Custer's flag from the Indian chief American Horse at Slim Buttes, Mont., Mrs. William J. McClinton received from the government his Indian Wars medal and a posthumous citation for bravery.

Bureau of Standards Seeks a Perfect Fuel

Washington.—Why does the engine of your automobile sometimes miss when you step on the accelerator?

That's what the bureau of standards, in co-operation with the automotive and petroleum industry, is trying to find out, the Department of Commerce announces.

The bureau of standards has already made a few discoveries along this line. For instance, of two fuels, one may give better results in winter, another in summer. Another discovery is that while the temperature of an engine's water jacket has little effect on acceleration, a motor will "pick up" quicker when the intake manifold is hot.

A perfect motor fuel is what the bureau of standards hopes to find. It will investigate also the value of auxiliary devices designed to make low-grade gasoline function as well as high test fuels.

Famous Natural Bridge

The Rainbow bridge is located within the Navajo Indian reservation, in San Juan county, Utah. The bridge is 309 feet above the water and its span is 279 feet. The bridge is unique among the natural bridges of the world in that it is not only a symmetrical arch below, but presents a curved surface above, thus having the appearance of a rainbow.

'Round Home by CHAS. S. KINNISON

Delusion

When Mabe and I began our married life,
The days were sweet, and free of any strife.
Our happiness it seemed was most complete—
But oh, at times the bills were hard to meet!
For in those days the little envelope
That pay-day brought, was mostly filled with hope.
And so, I thought, if I had more to spend,
Our little worries all would come to end.

Well, on ahead, the short years swiftly flew,
And bit by bit, our income slowly grew.
And now, today, though poor we are indeed,
As money goes—we have all that we need
We're happy, too—but truly I confess,
Today, we have no more of happiness
Than did we have in far-off yesterday.
When Love was all that cheered us on our way.

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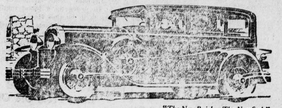

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